

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 SNM-02 FEA-01

AGR-05 ARA-06 (ISO) W

----- 019754

R 221010Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9605

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1339

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #18

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1. AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS (LOU)

IN WHAT IS TURNING OUT TO BE REPLACEMENT OF MOST BUMRESE AMBASSADORS ABROAD (WEEK 14, ITEM 4), NAMES OF SOME NEW APPOINTEES ARE BECOMING AVAILABLE, THOUGH NONE HAVE YET BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. PROBABLE ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE:

U THET TUN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, CENTRAL STATISTICAL AND ECONOMICS DEPT., TO PARIS AND PROBABLY ALSO TO EEC.

U THA KYAW, MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, WHOSE MINISTRY IS ONE OF WORST RUN IN GUB, TO LONDON.

U KYAW NYUNT, CHAIRMAN, UNION BANK, TO OTTAWA.

FORMER MINES MINISTER DR. NYI NYI, RECENTLY FORCED OUT OF GOVERNMENT BECAUSE ONE OF HIS PARENTS IS CHINESE, TO CANBERRA.

EX-LT. COL. (AIR FORCE) THAUNG LWIN, NOW CHARGE IN BERNE, TO TOKYO.

U TIN LATT, DIRECTOR, ASIA DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, RECENTLY NAMED CHARGE IN BONN BUT WHOSE ASSIGNMENT THERE HAS BEEN BROKEN, TO WASHINGTON. ADJUTANT GENERAL BRIG. MYINT MAUNG IS EXPECTED TO BE NAMED PERMREP TO UN. IF TIN LATT'S POSTING IS CONFIRMED, HE WILL BE ONLY CAREER BURMESE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER SERVING AS AMBASSADOR.

COL. KYEE MYINT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, TO BONN.

COMMENT (LOU): NO CLEAR PATTERN SEEMS TO EMERGE FROM THE APPOINTMENTS KNOWN SO FAR OR OTHERS STILL UNCONFIRMED EXCEPT THAT THEY WILL ENTAIL RETURN TO BURMA AND PROBABLE RETIREMENT OF SEVERAL EX-MILITARY OFFICERS HOSTILE TO THE REGIME AND CONCEIVABLY STILL POLITICALLY DANGEROUS. ON THE WHOLE, THE NEW APPOINTEES APPEAR SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE AND CAPABLE THAN PERSONS THEY ARE REPLACING. DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS RETIREMENT OF AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND UN U LWIN AND ASSIGNMENT OF THET TUN TO PARIS MAY POINT TO SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE BURMESE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
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2. GUB TAKES CUSTODY OF CAMBODIAN EMBASSY (CONFIDENTIAL)

ON MAY 13 BURMA'S AMBASSADOR TO PEKING ASKED GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK TO CLARIFY STATUS OF FORMER KHMER REPUBLIC EMBASSY RANGOON. BY WAY OF REPLY ARIN CHHAK ASKED BURMESE TO ASSUME CUSTODY OF EMBASSY PREMISES ON INTERIM BASIS. GUB AGREED AND HAS TAKEN LOOSE CUSTODY OF COMBINED RESIDENCE/CHANCERY

COMPOUND.

COMMENT: THE DIRECT APPROACH TO GRUNK WAS POSSIBLY DUE TO CONTINUED ABSENCE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND LOCAL CAMBODIANS. WHEN INFORMED OF CUSTODY ARRANGEMENT FORMER KHMERE CHARGE ASKED BURMESE IF THIS ACTION CONSTITUTED DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF NEW CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT;25#3 2- 59)\$ 5#-5 85 \$8\$. AT ANY RATE, BURMESE CUSTODY IS VERY LOW KEY. THE KHMER STAFF CONTINUE TO ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND USE OF THEIR MISSION'S PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT.

3. UPGRADING RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS (UNCLASSIFIED)

GUB HAS INFORMED BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO UPGRADE RELATIONS FROM CONSULATE-GENERAL TO EMBASSY LEVEL. (BOTH KOREAS HAVE MISSIONS IN RANGOON; BURMA HAS NONE IN EITHER SEOUL OR PYONGYANG.) (RANGOON 1292) ROK MISSION BECAME EMBASSY AS OF MAY 19 UNDER FORMER CONGEN AS CHARGE. GKNZMAY 21 ANNOUNCED UPGRADING AS WELL AS THAT IT HAD "TAKEN NECESSARY STEPS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" WITH BOTH VIET-NAMS AND CAMBODIA.

4. BURMESE REACTION TO MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR (CONFIDENTIAL)

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION OR PRESS EDITORIALS ON SEIZURE RECOVERY OF MAYAGUEZ, SOURCES IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT HAVE LARGELY ENDORSED THE US ACTION. BURMESE MILITARY OFFICERS ADMIRE THE PRECISION WITH WHICH THE OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED AND BURMESE AS WELL AS NON-COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS FEEL THE US HAD LITTLE OTHER RECOURSE IN DEALING WITH THE MYSTERIOUS CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES THAN THE USE OF FORCE. IN GENERAL, MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR HAS STRENGTHENED STANDING OF THE US IN THE MINDS OF BURMESE. (RANGOON 1287)

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5. BCP STATEMENT ON DEATHS OF THAKINS ZIN AND CHIT (UNCLAS)

BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY RADIO STATION MAY 17 BROADCAST STATEMENT BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SPEECH BY NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN THAKIN BA THEIN TIN, EXPLICITLY ADMITTING FOR FIRST TIME DEATHS IN MARCH OF FBKMER CHAIRMAN THAKIN ZIN AND POLITBURO MEMBER THAKIN CHIT, AND EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN ULTIMATE BCP VICTOR. BA THEIN TIN REFERRED TO CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF HIMSELF, THE THREE OTHER SURVIVING CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (OUT OF 22), AND ONE OTHER VETERAN BCP CADRE WHOM WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY LISTED AS A CC MEMBER. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, NO OTHER NEW MEMBERS OF CC WERE ANNOUNCED. (RANGOON 1295) NCNA MAY 20 CARRIED MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON ZIN AND CHIT DEATHS FROM CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CC TO BA THEIN TIN.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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AGR-05 ARA-06 (ISO) W

----- 019753

R 221010Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9606

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1339

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CCP MESSAGE REAFFIRMED THAT "HISTORICAL TREND OF THE BURMESE
REVOLUTION CANNOT BE CHECKED" AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN
"THOROUGH AND COMPLETE VICTORY" OF BCP.

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COMMENT (LOU) BA THEIN TIN HAS BEEN IN CHINA SINCE 1953, AND HIS SELECTION AS CHAIRMAN CONSOLIDATES PRC CONTROL OVER WHAT REMAINS OF THE BCP OUTSIDE THE NORTHEAST COMMAND AREA. THROUGH HIS SPEECH, PRC APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTING BCP THAT THE BLOODY INTRA-PARTY PURGES WHICH GREATLY WEAKENED BCP FROM 1968 THROUGH 1973 MUST STOP, AND THAT INCREASED ATTENTION MUST BE DEVOTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL EFFORTS.

6. STUDENT, LABOR UNREST (LOU)

A SMALL GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ENGAGED IN BRIEF CONFRONTATION WITH MILITARY SENTRIES NEAR THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS EVENING OF MAY 18 FORCING GUARDS TO WITHDRAW. STUDENTS ALSO HAVE DEMANDED FROM UNIVERSITY RECTOR DROR MAUNG MAUNG KHA A LIST OF STUDENT CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE TAKEOVER OF THE CAMPUS BY THE MILITARY LAST DECEMBER AND THERE IS TALK THAT THE STUDENTS MAY ORGANIZE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE U THANT AFFAIR. THUS FAR, THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO AVOID DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE GENERALLY HOSTILE STUDENT BODY ALTHOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME ARRESTED LAST DECEMBER HAVE AGAIN BEEN DETAINED. ON THE LABOR FRONT, DEMANDS BY WORKERS AT GOVERNMENT-OWNED JUTE MILL FOR HIGHER FOOD RATIONS CONTINUE AND MILL OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN SLOWED BY WORK STOPPAGES AND ABSENTEEISM. PROTESTS HAVE ALLEGEDLY SPREAD TO THE INSEIN RAILWAY REPAIR SHOP. LABOR UNREST MAY INCREASE AS THE JUNE 6 ANNIVERSARY OF LAST YEAR'S CLASH OF TROOPS AND WORKERS APPROACHES ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION. ITS CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO DO SO IS AGAIN ILLUSTRATED BY DECISION (REPORTEDLY MADE BY NE WIN PERSONALLY) HD HOLD NATIONAL FINALS OF SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN RANGOON THIS WEEK. IN RECENT YEARS FINALS HAVE BEEN HELD OUTSIDE RANGOON TO MINIMIZE RISK OF INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT TOUCH OFF DEMONSTRATIONS OR RIOTING.

7. NARCOTICS: OPIUM SEIZURE IN KENG TUNG (UNCLASSIFIED)

CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM KENG TUNG, SEARCHING TRUCKS DESTINED FOR TACHILEK ON MAY 3, UNCOVERED 107 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM CONCEALED UNDER LEGAL CARGO. THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT MONG HPA YAK, HALFWAY BETWEEN KENG TUNG AND TACHILEK, THE SAME CONVOY WAS

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STOPPED AGAIN AND AN ADDITIONAL 83 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM WAS DISCOVERED AND SEIZED.

8. MYANMA OIL CORPORATION MANAGING DIRECTOR SACKED (LOU)

MOC MANAGING DIRECTOR DR. AUNG KHIN WAS DISMISSED MAY 16 ON ORDERS OF PRESIDENT NE WIN AND REPLACED AT LEAST ON ACTING BASIS BY EX-MAJ. KYAW ZA, PREVIOUSLY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MYANMA BAWDWIN (LEAD/ZINC MINING) CORPORATION. KYAW ZA HAS NO PETROLEUM BACKGROUND AND AUNG KHIN'S EXPERTISE WILL BE MISSED. BASIC REASON FOR DISMISSAL WAS NE WIN'S DISAPPOINTMENT OVER MOC'S FAILURE TO FIND OIL OFFSHORE OR SIGNIFICANT NEW RESERVES ONSHORE, BUT IMMEDIATE CAUSE WAS DISPLEASURE ARISING OUT OF VISIT MAY 9 TO OILFIELD NEAR PROME. (RANGOON 1283)

9. CFP COMPLETES FIRST TEST WELL (UNCLASSIFIED)

US JACK-UP RIG "ROWAN ANCHORAGE" COMPLETED FIRST TEST WELL OF THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM (CFP) OFF THE ARAKAN COAST AND DEPARTED TO FULFILL OTHER COMMITMENTS MAY 12. THE WELL REACHED A DEPTH OF ONLY ABOUT 4,000 FEET; DRILLING WAS HALTED WHEN ABORNMALLY HEAVY PRESSURE THREATENED A BLOW-OUT. THE SAME PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN THE FIRST JAPANESE TEST WELL. (WEEKA 16). CFP MAY NOT HAVE ANOTHER RIG AVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER. ONLY CITIES SERVICE AND EXXON ARE NOW DRILLING OFFSHORE WITH NO ENCOURAGING RESULTS TO DATE.

10. RICE SALES TO CUBA (LOU)

HONORARY NORWEGIAN CONSUL TOLD EMBOFF IN PRESENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER BURMA PORT AUTHORITY THAT GUB HAS AGREED TO SELL 75,000 TONS OF RICE TO CUBA THIS YEAR. USSR CONTRACTED TO DELIVER RICE DIRECTLY FROM BURMA TO CUBA AND RUSSIAN FREIGHTERS NOW LOADING SHIPMENTS AT RANGOON. PORT AUTHORITY OFFICIAL DID NOT DENY THE STATEMENT.

COMMENT: THIS WOULD BE BURMA'S FIRST DIRECT SALE OF RICE TO CUBA. IT REPRESENTS DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL ASIAN MARKETS FOR BURMESE RICE, BUT IT MAY BE THAT CUBA IS MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT "MIRACLE RICE" STRAINS (MAINLY IR-5) WHICH GUB ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT THAN BURMA'S ASIAN CUSTOMERS.

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11. SOVIET CULTURAL-SPORTS ACTIVITIES (UNCLASSIFIED)

A TASHKENT UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL ATEAM VISITED BURMA TO PLAY THREE GOODWILL GAMES AGAINST A LOCAL SELECTION. THE TALLER RUSSIANS OVERPOWERED AND OVERSHADOWED THE BURMESE TEAMS ON TWO OCCASIONS. THE THIRD GAME WAS PLAYED BY TEAMS MADE UP OF PLAYERS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES. THE 1500-SEAT AUNG SAN INDOOR STADIUM WAS FILLED OR NEARTO FILLED ON ALL THREE EVENINGS.

RECEIVING LESS ATTENTION WAS A SMALL SOVIET TECHNOLOGICAL AND
REFERENCE BOOKS EXHIBIT AT RANGOON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. THE
EXHIBIT, WHICH INCLUDED PHOTOS, PAINTINGS AND A COLLECTION OF
STAMPS, WENT UNANNOUNCED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNTIL AFTER THE
EXHIBIT HAD CLOSED.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DRUG CONTROL, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MAYAGUEZ SS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT SALES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO01339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-0288
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750527/aaaaaxzu.tel
Line Count: 338
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #18 CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BM, US, KS, KN, CU, (U TIN LATT), (KYEE MYINT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006